The Sun.

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The Andes Eliminated.

An engineering feat of the first importance that has been recently completed is likely to change political relations in South America and commercial conditions throughout the world. The tunnel under the Andes at the pass of Cumbre has been pierced and in this coming spring Valparaiso and Buenos Ayres will be connected by a railroad running in nearly a direct line east and west. The barrier of the mountains has been removed, the two most stable and most highly civilized South American republics are brought into closer connection, Chile obtains an outlet for her products on the Atlantic and Argentina one for hers on the Pacific, and the terrors of the Straits of Magellan disappear.

That increased facilities for intercourse and for trade will bring Chile and Argentina closer together politically is inevitable. They are the two States which above all the others in the southern continent have shown vigor and enterprise; they have manifested less inclination than other Latin republics to violent changes of government; their boundaries include nearly all of the temperate zone in South America, so that immigrants have no new difficulties of climate to contend with, and they have dealt with great equity with the foreigners who have settled or have traded in their land. If a United States of South America is ever to come into existence it is Argentina and Chile that must give it stable form. The elimination of the Andes is a great step in the direction of a union.

For the time being, so long as the chief exports of both countries continue to be raw materials, no great change is to be expected in transportation. Argentine grain and hides and beef and Chilean copper and nitrates must go mainly by sea, as they have in the past. It is the lighter manufactured imports that the railroad will carry; and apparently till the Panama Canal is completed the tide will set westward, to Chile. It is the British, German and French exporters who will profit immediately and who may in a few years establish their trade so securely that Americans will be unable to dislodge them.

When the canal is finally opened, however, the tide should turn. Valparaiso will then be much nearer to New York than it is to Liverpool, and even Buenos Ayres will gain in time by shipping by way of the Pacific. If American manufacturers wake up to their opportunities, find out what South Americans want and what their commercial methods are, the Chilean market is theirs, and the new railway through the Andes gives them more than an even chance in Argentina.

In England they are beginning to perceive the danger, and the congratulations over a triumph of British engineers and British capital are modified by the contemplation of what may be the result of building the tunnel if American enterprise comes through the Panama Canal to profit by it.

Maine Asks for the Raising of the Maine.

To the Hon. WILLIAM SULZER in the cause of raising the Maine from the channel of Havana harbor, where it is an obstruction to navigation as well as a reproach to unspectacular American patriotism, has come encouragement from a source that must be reckoned with. In the Senate on Friday last the Hon. WILLIAM PIERCE FRYE rose to ask that the following resolution of the Maine Legislature be printed in the *Record* and referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs:

"Whereas for eleven long years the wreck of the battleship Maine, with more than three score of our sailors who went down with it, has remained in the mud and slime of Havana harbor, a danger to shipping and a monument of neglect, oblivion and national shame; and

"Whereas the Hon. WILLIAM SULZER of New York is endeavoring to have a bill passed by Congress for the removal of the wreckage and the proper interment of the bodies of the seamen therein contained; be it therefore

"*Resolved*, That the people of the State of Maine, in Legislature assembled, most heartily urge the Maine Senators and Representatives in Congress to do their utmost to obtain immediate favorable action on the Sulzer bill."

For several years in the face of stolidity if not indifference Mr. SULZER, a Democrat, has urged upon Congress the duty of making another appropriation to raise the Maine. The Legislature at Lewiston is Republican by a majority of 64. An appropriation was made by Congress in March, 1898, and the work begun in the month preceding the war with Spain, when the whole country throbbed with passion to liberate Cuba. The task was necessarily abandoned when the war bugles blew. A balance of the appropriation remains available, but is not enough to complete the work. Congress has been cold, callous, neglectful, mute. It is thinking now of exerting the authority of the United States to punish the President of Nicaragua for an act said to be in violation of the law of nations affecting two American citizens who enlisted in the ranks of the insurgents in that country. Retribution may be eminently proper—we are not disputing it. But we sometimes wish that Congress, representing the American people, did not suffer from defective memory.

It is a fact recorded many times over that the Societies of Spanish War Veterans have called upon Congress to order the raising of the Maine. It is a fact that Admiral F. E. CHADWICK, who was a member of the Maine board of inquiry which found that an external explosion was the cause of the Maine's destruction; Admiral STEPHEN B. LUCE and other naval officers of high rank have urged, with Representative SULZER, that it was the Government's duty to raise the Maine. "It should have been done after the war," said Admiral CHADWICK two years ago. It is now long after the war, nearly twelve years. In two months from this time, or on February 15, the Americans in Havana will decorate, as is their custom every year, all that remains above water of the sunken battleship and hang memorial wreaths upon the ruin. They are constant, if Congress is not.

A copy of the resolution of the Legislature of the State of Maine has been sent to President TAFT. He is not yet committed by silence and inaction to letting the relic of the Maine endure in the sight of the world a reproach to the United States. We have always held the hope that WILLIAM H. TAFT would "ring true" on this issue when the opportunity came to him, and we await favorable action by him, with confidence in the quality of his patriotism.

The Amendments Carried.

Secretary of State KOENIG, whose duties in the premises are purely clerical, has gone far enough in compiling the returns of the last election received from the county Boards of Canvassers to be able to say that the four amendments to the Constitution and the canal debt law submitted in November to the voters were all approved. The majority for each was obtained "mainly through the votes of New York and Kings counties." The State Board of Canvassers will meet this month officially to pass on the figures.

In this fashion the not trivial problems involved in the five questions propounded to the voters will be disposed of, probably to the satisfaction of all. It seems that the facts that the counting of the vote in New York and Kings counties was admittedly done in the most slipshod fashion; that in some districts blank ballots were counted in the affirmative, in some in the negative; that in certain districts the ballots were not counted at all; that these facts are of the most trifling consequence, disregarded alike by the authorities and by the citizens.

The absurdity of the situation is made obvious by a comparison of the votes as recorded on the canal law in this community and in Oneida county. Oneida county, a barge canal county, defeated the proposal by 1,100 votes out of a total of 7,600. But the largest counties in New York city are credited with casting sufficient votes in its favor to overcome such up-State opposition and saddle $7,000,000 of bonds on the taxpayers.

The spectacle of an intelligent people governing itself through cooked and crooked election returns must impress the observer with profound respect for some of the manifestations of popular rule.

A Gushing Texas Bill Well.

The Hon. GORDON RUSSELL, Representative in Congress of the Third Texas district, maintains worthily the traditions of the statesmen of three great States. Born in Alabama "of Georgia parents," he emigrated to Smith county—no relation of the more famous Deaf Smith county—Texas, in 1895, and here he is in his second term in the House and pouring forth bills which show that he has in him the root of the "immortal principles" of republican-democratic self-government. On Friday he introduced these bills:

"To establish a fish hatchery and biological station in the Third Texas Congress district; to increase the limit of cost and to complete the post office building at Terrell, Tex.; appropriating $200,000 for the improvement of the Sabine River by removing the snags and obstructions therein; to provide for a public building at Longview, Tex.; to appropriate $250,000 for demonstration farm work in cotton growing States afflicted with the Mexican cotton boll weevil."

And nine other measures, if our arithmetic doesn't err, including a proposition to forbid the use of mails to trusts, and a nobly Bryanesque joint resolution proposing to amend the Constitution so as to provide for the election by the people of the several States of certain United States Judges and District Attorneys.

The Hon. GORDON RUSSELL ungenerously hides from a people that will soon learn to worship him the date of his birth in Huntsville, Ala., of Georgia parents, but it is clear that he was not born yesterday.

King Leopold.

If King LEOPOLD II. had died fifteen or twenty years ago history would have given him a place among the wise and beneficent rulers. In a lesser degree he had shown the sagacity and prudence that distinguished his father, LEOPOLD I., and that marked all the men of the Saxe-Coburg house in the generation of fortunate marriages, when Coburgers became Prince Consorts in Great Britain, Portugal and Brazil or married rich heiresses. Some portion of the reputation for political common sense that his father and his grandfather, LOUIS PHILIPPE, had enjoyed had descended to him; he had governed the Belgians successfully and with some popularity, and it seemed fitting that STANLEY should turn to him when Great Britain had refused to take on herself the burden of opening the Congo region to civilization.

With the assumption of sovereignty over the Congo Free State a change seems to have come over King LEOPOLD, at all events in his private and public life he began to give offence. The relations of Belgium with the Congo became a political issue at home, and as party quarrels over the question increased in violence the King's interest in the affairs of the Belgians seemed to diminish and he was attracted more and more by the pleasures of Paris. Attacks on his administration of the Congo were made by foreigners as they awoke to the importance of the trade, and those proceeding from English sources have been as virulent as those made upon ABDUL the Damned. To friends of the negro the moral decline of the King of the Belgians serves as a warning example.

What impulses led King LEOPOLD after a lifetime of outward respectability to make an ostentatious display of profligacy in his old age psychological novelists may discuss. It may be that the "folly of riches" attacks even kings. Though the Belgians are even less squeamish than the French about some matters, they could not but be indignant at seeing their sovereign posing as a *boulevardier* in Paris, appearing in public with notorious women and even flaunting the morals of a CHARLES II. or a LOUIS XV. in prosaic twentieth century Brussels. Royalty is too recent in a Belgium that tends to socialism to be judged by other standards than common men are subject to.

The unpopularity of King LEOPOLD was increased by the sordid scandals in his family. One daughter, the widow of the suicide Crown Prince of Austria and very unpopular in Belgium, married below her rank and was obliged to sue her father in order to recover her share of her mother's estate. Another daughter, a woman in middle life, eloped from her husband, made a show of her folly throughout Europe and was obliged to make a public appeal to her father for assistance. The Belgians were disgusted that their royal family should become a byword; they were even more indignant at the meanness and heartlessness shown by a man of King LEOPOLD'S reputed wealth.

He is going out in a blaze of scandal that obscures whatever good he may have done in his earlier years.

The Pan-American Conference.

Last Friday the President sent to the Congress a brief message transmitting "a report by the Secretary of State regarding representation by the United States at the Fourth International Conference of American States, to be held at the city of Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic, beginning on the ninth day of July next." The message approved the recommendation of the Secretary that "the sum of $75,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, be appropriated for this purpose." Mr. TAFT referred to this matter in his message of December 7, in which he said that, an appropriation being made, it was his purpose "to appoint a distinguished and representative delegation, qualified fittingly to represent this country and to deal with the problems of intercontinental interest which will there be discussed."

This conference will be the fourth in a series of such gatherings. The first was in Washington in 1889-1890, the second in the city of Mexico in 1901-1902, and the third in Rio Janeiro in 1906. The Washington conference, held twenty years ago, was notable as the first comprehensive effort to bring the republics of the Western Hemisphere into closer relationship and to establish a better understanding between the respective nations through more intimate personal acquaintance. There is no question that the work then done, the foundation then laid, has been of inestimable value. The second conference, in the city of Mexico, was fruitful, and the third, in Rio Janeiro, derived a special value from the presence of Mr. ROOT, then Secretary of State, and from his memorable address. While the ties that bind the twenty-one republics of this hemisphere are obviously susceptible of further strengthening, much of great value has been accomplished by these conferences.

The tentative programme for the session of next July contains no topic of the highest importance. Article VII. provides for a "consideration of the conditions under which the establishment of more rapid mail, passenger and express steamship service between the republics can be secured." The matter needs all the light that can be thrown on it. There is to be consideration of "measures which will lead to uniformity in consular documents and the technical requirements of customs regulations, and also in census and commercial statistics." Such subjects as sanitary regulations, patents, trademarks and pecuniary claims are also on the programme.

The personnel of the "distinguished and representative delegation" to be appointed by the President is of unusual consequence. The excellent structure so nicely conceived and erected by Mr. ROOT has been somewhat shaken by one or two recent experiences, and the purposes of this country toward its neighbors have again fallen under suspicion. It would be well if at least some and if possible all of the delegates could in the Spanish language assure their Latin American colleagues that the essential principles of the Root policy remain absolutely unaltered. It is possible that what might be regarded as a "distinguished and representative delegation" is less desirable than a delegation composed of men who are distinctly and peculiarly qualified for the special work and the special occasion. We have in the United States a large collection of "distinguished and representative" citizens who would be quite out of place in the work of the conference at Buenos Ayres, and perhaps equally out of place at the numerous social functions which will be a part of the programme. If he could be induced to go it would be an excellent scheme to appoint the Hon. ELIHU ROOT chairman of the delegation. His command of the Spanish language may not be masterly, but he certainly measures up to the requirements in all other respects.

The Trophies of Tartarin.

There is a pardonable confusion in some of the accounts of the Tartarin-Smithsonian expedition in British East Africa. The small revenue of natural history possessed by some of the reporters and the eccentricities of the telegraph have caused some harmless mistakes, which, however, may be worth correcting for the sake of science. Thus no attempt has been made to capture a "bongo." The longbo (Arcuslongus gigas) is undoubtedly the animal meant. The tarasque is a still more interesting and much rarer specimen. A French authority thus describes it:

"It is about three feet high, four feet broad in the middle of the body and eight feet long to the beginning of the tail. The head, small in proportion to the rest of the body, is very like the head of a cat whose ears have been cut off. The monster has scarcely any neck. The body, properly speaking, is much like an enormous egg; it is covered with long scales yellowish at the edge, between which iron points stand out like pikes. It goes on four paws, so short that it seems to touch the soil and creep. Its immense, very thick tail is like a big snake's."

The longbo is said to be copiously dentated and of Atlantean strength. These two malefactors of great health are in themselves enough to make a zoological garden of unequalled vigor. Add to these some of the other prizes of the expedition, such as a half dozen strictly fresh roc's eggs, two full grown hums and an unusually fine young Swahili octopus terrier, and it will be seen that Tarascon, Washington and the whole world have reason to rejoice in the faunal feats already done, even if the giant pig was too well greased.

There are some captivating details about the story that Mr. WALLACE E. TILLINGHAST of the Sure Seam Manufacturing Company of Worcester has invented an aeroplane capable of flights of 300 miles without filling the gasolene tank. In the first place, all its flights have been made at night. In the second place, it has sailed to the Statue of Liberty—every well regulated aeroplane is expected to do that. In the third place, it is now in retreat sixty miles from Worcester and fourteen miles from a railroad station. We do not know of such a place within a radius of sixty miles of Worcester, but not much further off is No Man's Land in the Martha's Vineyard archipelago. Only one man lives there, and perhaps he could keep the secret. In the fourth place—and this is very important—a life saver at Fire Island, 4,000 feet above which unpopulated spot the aeroplane motor was repaired, heard a noise one night over his head that could not have been the honking of geese, for he is familiar with the sound they make, and it must therefore have been an aeroplane motor detonating. In the fifth place, the moon rose at 11:36 P. M. on the night Mr. TILLINGHAST says he flew to Fire Island. In the sixth place—but why pursue the subject, we have all had castles in Spain, that is to say, in the air.

Topeka suffering for gas.—*Emporia Gazette.*

What has become of STUBBS?

That old war acquaintance the intelligent contraband seems to be writing despatches from and about Nicaragua. We wish he would concord himself.

DIVORCE AND DUTY.

A Woman's Objections to Mrs. Deland's Theory of Social Obligation.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* As a woman I desire to express my dissent from Mrs. Deland's conclusions on divorce. Why should unhappily mated persons separate instead of getting an absolute divorce? Mrs. Deland says that individual happiness should be sacrificed to the permanence of the family.

Now will some one kindly tell us why a community full of mismated couples is better for society than a collection of happy individuals? Most of us believe that the welfare and prosperity of the nation depend on the happiness of the individual.

It is true, as the lecturer says, that some women when leaving their husbands do so from a sense of duty and because they feel that it would not be right for them to stay with them. But how many women now remain with their husbands because of their dependence upon them for support and because of stringent divorce laws which prevent them from breaking the bonds while the husbands break every law on the matrimonial calendar?

Statistics and experience prove that restricting divorce and making it harder for the aggrieved party to obtain it increases illegitimacy and encourages meretricious relations.

Liberal divorce laws are not a menace to public welfare but are a sign of progress and "a part of the mighty process of spiritual liberation which has been growing in volume and strength since the Reformation." A BROOKLYN WOMAN.

BROOKLYN, December 13.

"Galore."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In the name of true poetical faith I trust "F. W. H.'s" suggestion to cut out the word "galore" from the dictionary won't be adopted. We newspaper poets love plain English, whatever our contemporaries the magazine poets may hanker after; in fact it is the only language we speak plainly, but please let us have the license to use a somewhat obsolete word now and then. What the derivation of "galore" is—it sounds Irish—or how on earth it ever came into the language I don't know, but it is a great standby, almost as reliable as "the gleaming." No, No, "F. W. H.":

Ah, don't cut out the word "galore"!
We poets use it o'er and o'er.
It rhymes in summer with the "shore";
It rhymes with "disappointment sore";
It rhymes with "loved one, I adore";
It rhymes with "I will have your gore";
It rhymes with what the lady "wore,"
And plenty, plenty, plenty, more;
In fact, its rhymes are quite "galore"!

NEW YORK, December 13. L. T. H.

Practical Use for Carrier Pigeons.

From the Philadelphia Record.

Harry Harm, the son of a Columbia grocer, has found a practical use for a lot of carrier pigeons. It used to take him half a day to gather orders, half a day to fill them and half a day to deliver, but now, thanks to the pigeons, the work is done in one day. When Mr. Harm starts he takes a crate of pigeons along in his wagon, and after he secures a few orders, he takes the duplicate order slips, which are of thin paper, puts them in a tiny roll on a pigeon's leg and the bird is liberated. It at once flies to its loft at the store, where the clerks relieve it of its orders. This plan is followed until the man covers his entire route, and when he returns to the store the clerks have the goods ready for delivery.

Wise Pennsylvania Fowls.

Darby correspondence Philadelphia Public Ledger.

After being bothered for a long time by not knowing whether he was feeding his own or his neighbors' stock the Rev. J. B. Randolph, the well known colored divine of Darby township, has solved the question by training his chickens and ducks to answer to a large call bell, which brings them scurrying from all quarters to be fed. None of the fowls of his neighbors knows the bell signal and as a consequence when the Rev. Mr. Randolph sounds it only his stock responds. The birds learned the feed signal in less than a week's time and now they begin to run at the first sound of it, to the astonishment of other chickens who do not know its meaning.

EMPTY SEATS IN CHURCH.

Lowered Tone of the Pulpit the Cause, Says a Clergyman.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Several letters have recently appeared in THE SUN on the state of Christianity, one by a correspondent who thinks well of Dr. Eliot's new religion, maintaining that religion is on the decline, two by "D. D., LL. D." and Eugene M. Camp, who say it was never more potent and aggressive than now.

Regardless of statistics, which prove nothing because they can be made to prove anything, the fact is undisputed: People do not attend church as do they did not many years ago. Those ministers who preach to full houses are the exception and not the rule.

Some lament the fact and think it is a sign that we are going backward; others lament the fact also but maintain that in spite of it the people are all right. These observers believe that if they are not religious in the old way of going to church they are religious in new ways. Indeed, I heard a minister of a large church in New York say recently that this is a profoundly religious age. I fail to see it. Every manifestation of Christianity, every revival of true religion, expresses itself in and through the church; that is to say, where the Spirit of God is stirring a community there the people gather together in great meetings for praise and prayer and united work. Men in whom the Spirit of God is working do not stay at home and make a private affair of the Gospel.

The Gospel is a public commodity for free distribution, and where it is not freely distributed by the people it is because they do not possess it. To say that the masses can be religious although they stay away from the church on the Lord's day and keep their religion to themselves is a contradiction in terms, if by religion we mean Christianity; for it is the very nature of the Gospel to give itself, to spread itself, to diffuse itself and bring people together and bind them in one as worshippers of God and coworkers together with Him, and although it begins in the heart and in the home it does not end there. A religion that never carries a man beyond the threshold of his own home to the sacred precincts of the house of God is not the religion that comes from heaven. No, if men do not go to church it is because they have not Christ in their hearts impelling them to go.

I am not speaking of any particular church but of "the assembling of ourselves together" in His name. So long as the masses do not bend the knee in their homes and remain outside the Lord's gates on His day, whatever may be their given reason for doing so, it will not be, it cannot be, a religious age in any true sense.

So largely has the attendance fallen off in some communities that there is talk of having only one service on Sunday. Better one service well attended than two poorly attended services. Doubtless it is an evidence of our defeat. Never mind the reasons assigned for it. They may be good or they may be bad, as that men are so hard pressed with business during the week that they are too tired when Sunday comes to go out twice, or that farmers have so much to do about the farm that 11 o'clock is too early for them to get out, or that the minister does not preach the Gospel. Never mind the reasons; the fact is that they are not in the house of God as they used to be.

What is the cause of this falling away from the church and of its impoverished spiritual life? There are many, many causes, but I believe that one of the most potent, a cause that goes to the root of the matter, is the lowered tone of the pulpit. The pulpit to-day in many churches has been metamorphosed into a lecture platform. When election day comes we have a political address in which the preacher if he does not take sides deals out to his congregation colorless platitudes with which everybody agrees, and hence they do no one any good or any harm. Before Decoration Day he preaches to some lodge a discourse that a Jew or a Catholic or a Mohammedan could listen to without taking offence. When he takes out of Bible themes he has recourse to the world of literature and gives a series on Tennyson or dilates on psychology under the name of Emmanuelism.

These are not isolated practices but are indulged in everywhere. Is it any wonder that the minister has lost much of his sacred character in the eyes of the world when his themes range so largely on the terrestrial and the secular? Alas! the pulpit is no longer the throne where the preacher is the prophet girt with power from on high and proclaiming a message which men disbelieve at their peril. He is a dilly-dallier, tickling men's ears, seeking to please and entertain them. A young lady said of a well known minister in a large city that she liked to hear him preach because "he did not say anything about your sins." Think of it! Sin passed over as though it were of no account, as though it did not matter much whether sinners repented or not!

I may also say that if the "new theology" as represented by Union Theological Seminary, New York, and institutions of that character continues to influence and permeate the rising generation of preachers it will not be many years before "Ichabod" is written over the doors of our churches. The ultimate outcome of the "new theology" is cold and lifeless Unitarianism. And we know from history what that means. It means spiritual death to the churches. The blight of Unitarianism that settled on many of the churches of New England in the early part of the last century resulted in their complete stagnation and in their being robbed of all spiritual powers, so that they are not a factor to be reckoned with in evangelism and have done practically nothing for missions.

The "new theology" as taught by the leading representatives can be found in the writings of Theodore Parker over half a century ago, and if the evangelical churches of to-day do not wish to suffer the judgment of God upon them as the Congregational churches did which accepted Unitarianism they must rise and repudiate this thing called "the new theology." They must cling to "the faith once for all delivered to the saints" or their doom is certain. They must proclaim the literal truthfulness of the Bible, the deity of Christ, His atoning death, His bodily resurrection and personal second coming, the necessity of trust in Him and the two destinies heaven and hell. As the Gospel of Christ alone is "the power of God unto salvation" those churches alone will have power which proclaim it.

CHARLES HILLMAN FOUNTAIN,
Pastor Baptist Church.

UNIONVILLE, December 10.

The Splash Theory of Foiling the Shark.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I would suggest to your contributor of the pen name "Sharks Be Hanged" that there be at all times a broad, straightaway escape for himself as well as for the shark if they get into the same water. The splash theory reminds me of the story of the mule which I heard during a sojourn in the Hoosier State.

One Sabbath morning when a number of brethren were gathered together in a large stable for communion and to swap experiences the spirit moved one of them to remark that no confidence should be placed in a mule, that the innocent, demure, faraway look of the animal was merely a lure to tempt to destruction. The mule would kick in season and out of season, and his heels discriminated not between friend and foe. A second brother arose and rebuked the "Doubting Thomas." "All you have to do," said he, "is let a mule know that you are not afraid and he will never kick you. Now nothing could induce this mule to kick me." At the same time he laid a hand on the flank of a large, well fed, well groomed mule. A movement so quick as to rival a flash of lightning followed, and the too confident champion lay prone upon the floor. The mule had kicked him clear across the barn.

When the second brother had collected sufficient of his scattered faculties to understand anything at all he was met with the comforting assurance from the other brethren in chorus that they saw quite clearly that "you have only to let a mule know that you are not afraid and he will never kick you." The application to the splash theory of dealing with a shark is clear enough. V. S. W.

SPRINGFIELD, Ohio, December 11.

A Neglected Jewel.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* From the Charlotte *Observer* I take the enclosed classic, which mentions the recent visit of the President is or was responsible for. In view as well as in appreciation of your always devoted loyalty to the products of my native heath, especially of poetic variety, I am taking the liberty of bringing this gem to your attention, confident that in the rush of less important affairs you must have inadvertently permitted it to escape you.

TAR HEEL NEW YORKER.

NEW YORK, December 13.

A Franklin county poet—and they grow good posts as well as unterrified Democrats in Franklin—proposes the following as "Our Presidents" toast when he lands in North Carolina:

"Here's to the land of the long leaf pine,
Where they chew virgin 'rosum' and make turpentine,
Where the Rubicon say, I made a mighty fudge
When I couldn't find a Redical 'Sitton' for a judge."

ART TREASURES OF GREECE.

Hellenes at Home and Abroad Jealous for Them.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The editorial article in THE SUN on the subject of the accusation against Mr. Kavvadias by the Officers League in Greece represents only a foreigner's foreign view. Allow me, therefore, to present the Greek side of it.

Far be it from me to justify the workings of the Officers League, whose formation has been looked upon with the greatest dismay by every thoughtful and patriotic Greek. To condemn, though, the sole up to date tangible benefit that has come from the league's ultra-legal exertion would mean in this case, in my opinion, a lack of good judgment.

Certainly it is greatly to be deplored that Mr. Kavvadias's continuance in the many offices he has abused for so long could not have been terminated before and without the instrumentality of revolutionary movements. Every man interested in archæological matters has long known to be true what only lately was published in the papers of the league. We have all known of the priceless finds of Greek art that have been scattered through the museums of Europe and have even found their way to many a private collection, the law against exportation of antique art treasures from Greece notwithstanding.

During my visit in Athens I came to know of several purchases of antique objects of art by friends and fellow travellers. I spoke about this to my friends among the inspectors of antiquities. I received two explanations, both correct. One was that many objects sold to the guileless art lover as "antiques" are spurious, and consequently did not come under the law forbidding exportation of antiquities; the other, that many genuine articles, some coming from national excavations, were smuggled out of the country by the aid of persons friendly to the Inspector-General and thus above the law. They all accused Mr. Kavvadias of carrying on a traffic of his own, but none thought it possible to oust him from the position wherein they knew him to be intrenched behind powerful and occult influences.

The opinion of foreign archæologists about Mr. Kavvadias is of little value. His dismissal from the post of Inspector-General places them in a very awkward position. They might have to explain many details in their methods of conducting excavations if Greece were in a position to ask for them. As it is they will have to break in a new, probably stricter, and at best unknown, man in their ways of carrying on "leur petites affaires."

A very uncertain code of ethics prevails in this matter of art chasing, be the motive pure science or filthy lucre. No matter how pursued, the passion for antiquities leads to temptations to which the wisest and the best succumb. A professor who would scrupulously declare every foreign bought trinket in his trunk in order to comply with the customs law of the land would think nothing of breaking the law in Greece and Italy by carrying away surreptitiously prohibited, even stolen, objects of virtu.

While studying in Munich my attention was called by the late Professor Furtwängler to the beauty and splendid preservation of several bas-reliefs, all being recent acquisitions of the Glyptothek. Later I questioned closely Professor Julius, his assistant, about the mode of their recovery. All the answer I got was many a knowing smile and a refusal to tell.

To what lengths an archæologist will go in order to secure some "finds" was demonstrated lately by the methods of the representatives of the Berlin Museum in Samos. They have stooped to any means to reap the benefits of the work started there by the Greek Archæological Society. According to the latest news from Athens Mr. Kavvadias chose to avoid investigation by escaping from the country.

In the editorial article in THE SUN the importance of foreign activity in the field of excavation in Greece was overestimated. What was said as to the excavations conducted with foreign (principally French) money, doubtless was true fully a quarter of a century back. At present things are reversed. Greece is not dependent on the tourist. As a matter of fact the amount of money spent by the tourists there is inconsiderable. Greece is not yet Switzerland. The great resource of the country is the money poured in by the Greeks abroad, chiefly in Russia, Egypt and the United States. True, Greece is poor, but the Greeks are rich, very rich, comparatively. Their zeal in promoting public institutions is unparalleled in any other country of the world but the United States. They have founded the Archæological Society and endowed it handsomely, so that now, with the aid of a national lottery, its income is about 600,000 francs annually. It is to be supplied in preserving existing antiquities and promoting new researches and excavations. For a long time past the expenditure of all the foreign schools in Athens has not amounted to as much. Nevertheless the foreign schools have had a preference in sites, conditions and priority of scientific research.

This is naturally galling to the ambitious set of younger archæologists, who do not want to see themselves outstripped in their own field of original research by their foreign colleagues. To Mr. Kavvadias himself, petted, patted and decorated by the foreign archæologists and fattened by several salaries, this is a matter of minor importance, for as a scientist he has shown little aptitude and less merit in his line. His callousness to the finer and higher requisites of scientific research has been patent even outside the narrow circle of specialists. He has published presumably original descriptions of discoveries which were detected afterward to be translations, and very "bad translations, from the German. C. P. CASANOVE.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., December 11.

The Real and the Apparent Thackeray.

From the Saturday Review.

There is about Thackeray, through all his varying moods of surliness or loving kindness, through all his flashes of grim humor or pitiless insight, a suggestion of a still sanctuary kept inviolate. He seems to have been jealous for the seclusion he needed for his inner self as he was often boisterous in his expression of the superficial mood that possessed him. The real Thackeray will never be known, for the inquirer with eyes to see behind the veil will not be the one to tear it aside for a spectacle.

The Thackeray the world knew was himself a fascinating figure. A man who combined the humor of ripe judgment with a boyish zest in life was likely to charm and dominate and mystify his generation. Viewed from outside he appeared, partly on account of that very shyness that hid the real man, as a bundle of contradictions. He was a man who could say a savage thing because of the very tenderness of his sensibility, who could wound a friend because of the very earnestness of his desire to please, who could appear self-conscious and awkward because of the very naturalness of his heart. Then in an access of health or spirits he could leap all barriers and appeal unerringly to friends and listeners.

The way in which he regarded his own fame is typical of the Thackeray we have tried to know. No man ever enjoyed his fame more than he, but no man's head was ever less turned than his. The story is told that Charlotte Brontë, sitting opposite to him at dinner, regarded him for a long time as a hero. "And," said Thackeray, "I had the miserable humiliation of seeing her ideal of me disappear as everything went into my mouth and nothing came out of it, until at last, as I took my fifth potato, she leaned across with clasped hands and tearful eyes and breathed imploringly: 'Oh, Mr. Thackeray! Don't!'" This is one of those stories which may not be true, but ought to be. It shows Thackeray in his typical attitude to life and to himself. He enjoyed the situation and criticised it implicitly as he enjoyed it. A hero perhaps—but there were the five potatoes. It takes a man of humor to see the two things together without laughing stupidly or unkindly or cynically or self-consciously either at his admirer or at himself.

Prisoner's Needlework.

From M. A. P.

Canon Horsley, the new Mayor of Southwark, was the last chaplain of the Clerkenwell House of Detention, and he has many mementoes of his prison days. One is an antimacassar, the work of a once notorious woman drunkard who had been convicted 400 times and spent the larger part of her life in jail. With a bent pin found on the floor of the cell the woman pulled threads from her underclothing and made a really beautiful lace border, four feet long and four inches deep. Next she procured from a warder a needle and thread and a piece of linen a foot square, round which she sewed the lace. With hairs pulled from her head she embroidered an elaborate pattern, the whole of the centre being occupied by the words of a hymn. The completed design formed an exquisite piece of needlework.

A French Pluralist.

From the London Globe.

An enterprising shopkeeper living in one of the large suburbs of Paris has had painted on his shopfront the following inscription: "Forgeron.—Clockmaker, wigmaker, hairdresser, laundress." Inquiries made by a Paris contemporary show that M. Forgeron (Emile Jean Baptiste Eusèbe) exercises with great skill the professions of watchmaker and barber, and his worthy spouse washes the linen. M. Forgeron is also the leading drummer of his town and of his commune.

DEMOCRACY PERVERTED.

General Welfare Theories Heading Straight for State Socialism.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* True to his name, "Aristos" says in effect in a letter to THE SUN: "We ought to have a perfect government, but it is impossible to get one." The sentence, inadvertently, I think, conveys the whole error of the theorists. From Plato's "Republic" to this hour the mistake has consisted in supposing that government is a sort of machine, to be mended, altered, repaired, rebuilt like a bit of mechanism. From this error germinate all the myriad horrors and oppressions of State socialism and every other form of theory which has turned government into an agency of tyranny and legalized robbery. All of it in some way or other can be justified on the ground of the "general welfare," with the State, "society" or the government as universal almoner.

The problem of government is to give the best administration with the means at hand. Whether the result be ideally perfect is not to the point.

As a practical step in the right direction begin slowly to "crop the roots and clip the branches of that mighty upas tree" of State socialism which is surely absorbing the wealth of all the people, destroying the initiative of the business world and undermining justice in all the earth. In his last message to the Congress of the United States Theodore Roosevelt "suggested," "recommended" and "urged" enough socialistic foolery to have bankrupted all the great nations of the earth. That worker of miracles and doer of the impossible, the Government, was never so exploited and aggrandized in American history as during Mr. Roosevelt's presence in Washington.

"Aristos," as it seems, unconsciously, illustrates perfectly the most alarming tendency and characteristic of State socialism when he says that the women desire votes not for the general good but to forward the "interests" of their particular "class." Did "Aristos" ever stop to think that this artificial creation of classes, patterned after the example he has given so truly, is of the very essence of the socialistic spirit? That the State cannot in any way except by promoting and defending public order and justice? Also that the very first step aside from this narrow path must be in the selection of certain of its own citizens for favors at the expense of all the rest, and consequently their erection into a "class"?

In his reply to my letter of December 8 Harold S. Howard quotes Dr. W. Stanton Colt as saying in a Boston speech the previous week: "In England they have a more progressive philosophy. It is that the vote is the one thing which poor people ought to have if ever that class is to rise out of its poverty." I must say the sentence is a masterpiece in the gentle art of compressing vast nonsense into small compass. Here again do we see a division of society into "classes," with ignorance and poverty advanced as reasons for participation in the solution of insoluble questions, the abolition of poverty, the doing of the impossible.

I know of no sham greater than "democracy"; and the joke of it all is that no one under Heaven believes in it, not even its wildest protagonists. Actual "universal suffrage," meaning the participation of all the governed, would not be tolerated for an instant in any land or under any possible set of circumstances, and as to the "consent of the governed," pray, what is the species of "consent" that was given by the wise, honorable and cultured portion of this community during that period when Robert Van Wyck was Mayor of this city, with Dick Croker pulling all the wires from behind the scenes? Won't Thomas Jefferson rise from the tomb and tell us? Or some of his howling disciples of this day of grace?

"The people are sound at heart; they desire the right and eventually"—please observe the word—"eventually decide right," say the non-believing but still professing supporters of "popular" rule; that one word "eventually" destroys the whole case at a blow. I and all other citizens are entitled to the best government obtainable now (with stress on the word), and by the means at hand this moment. The submission of the judgment of Wisdom to be reviewed by Ignorance needs no time, no postponement to the Eventual; to-day is the accepted moment. The hour of good government is here, if the wise and human portion of the people but ask it—whether they be rich or poor matters little. G. L. R.

BROOKLYN, December 13.

THE BUDGET CAMPAIGN.

Signs That Point to Tory Sympathy With the Suffragettes.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In the budget campaign in England the Unionists are afraid that when the Liberals declare for Home Rule in Ireland a reduced Liberal majority will place the voting power of Parliament entirely in the hands of the Irish Nationalists. The recent by-elections of Portsmouth and Uxbridge have given the Unionists great victories.

Mr. Keir Hardy, the leader of the Laborites, predicts that there will be no appreciable difference in the state of parties after the election.

Mr. Asquith has made the issues clear and definite. The Liberal Administration will stand for free trade, secular education, the disestablishment of the Church of England, reform in the veto power of the House of Lords and Home Rule for Ireland. It is on these well defined lines that the battle will be fought; but Mr. Balfour still maintains that there is really only one issue, the budget and tariff reform.

The members of the peerage have very great influence all through the country. Take Manchester, for example. The influence of the Earl of Derby is really greater than that of any merchant prince. This was the reason why the whole city went